

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 EURE-00 ACDA-10 AID-05 MC-02

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TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

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USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

UNCLAS LISBON 5675

USINFO FOR IOP/M

USIA FOR IEU/MCLAUGHLIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PINT, PO

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION TO NYTIMES REPORT ON U.S., USSR AID

SUMMARY: PROMINENT ELECTRONIC, PRESS COVERAGE GIVEN IN LISBON TO NYTIMES REPORT THAT U.S., USSR HAVE GIVEN ARMS AND MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST PARTIES. COMMUNISTS HAD "NO COMMENT," BUT SOCIALISTS DENIED ALLEGATION.
END SUMMARY

1. MAJOR MEDIA ATTENTION GIVEN SEPT 25, 26 TO NYTIMES REPORT, WHICH ACCORDING TO FRANCE PRESSE ITEM REPRODUCED IN LISBON, SAID THAT
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"THE CIA, THE AMERICAN SPY AGENCY, IN RECENT MONTHS, FURNISHED

MILLIONS OF DOLLARS PER MONTH TO NON-COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS IN PORTUGAL. THESE (OFFICIAL) SOURCES SAY THAT FUNDS WERE SENT VIA SOCIALIST PARTIES AND TO UNIONS IN WESTERN EUROPE TO AN UN-NAMED ORGANIZATION. THEY FURTHER CLARIFY THAT SOME UNIONS ALSO SENT LIGHT ARMS AND MUNITIONS TO THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST PARTY." ARTICLE WENT ON TO REPORT THAT USSR SENT 50 TO 100 MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY SINCE APRIL 1974. IT ALSO STATED THE USSR SUPPORTS THE MPLA IN ANGOLA AND THAT THE U.S. HAS HELPED THE FNLA AND UNITA THERE.

2. DENIALS ALSO CARRIED: GOP-OWNED TELEVISION NETWORK'S SEPT 25 EVENING NEWS SHOWS CARRIED FOOTAGE OF PS LEADER MARIO SOARES INTERVIEW IN PARIS IN WHICH HE CALLED NYTIMES REPORT "JOURNALISTIC SPECULATION" AND SAID, "WE HAVE NEVER RECEIVED ASSISTANCE OF THIS KIND AND CERTAINLY NOT FROM THE UNITED STATES. THIS IS ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN." SAME SOARES DENIAL PUBLISHED IN SEPT 25 GOP-FINANCED "O SEculo." INDEPENDENT LEFTIST "A CAPITAL," APPARENTLY THE ONLY OTHER PAPER WHICH SOUGHT LOCAL COMMENT ON THE TIMES REPORT, REPORTED SEPT 25 THAT A COMMUNIST PARTY SPOKESMAN SAID, "NO COMMENT," AND A SOCIALIST PARTY OFFICIAL IN LISBON SAID, "THIS REPORT IS SO ABSURD THAT IT DOES NOT EVEN DESERVE A FORMAL ANSWER."
JORDAN

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